

Utah State ^{Midway} Fish Hatchery Spring

FISH HATCHERY

Midway Fish Hatchery, operated by the Utah Department of Fish and Game, began in 1909 as a private trout farm and has grown from that time to its present importance in the sports picture of eastern Utah.

The hatchery ground was homesteaded by James B. Hamilton in 1876 and from then until 1909 was used for farming. The Provo Valley Trout Company purchased the land. They also purchased the water right to the spring that headed in the John Murri property. The water was dammed up at intervals to raise fish. A home was built near the stream and eight fish runs were also constructed by Joseph Nelson and Mr. Erickson.

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See Max North

Midway Fish Hatchery

36 sec ft Main Spring

Collection of Many

45 sec escapes

THE FISH HATCHERY

The Fish Hatchery was established very early in the history of Midway. It was owned by the Van Wagoner brothers. They didn't actually hatch fish there then, but rather, trapped them. The property was sold, and after two or three owners, the State of Utah purchased it and converted it into a hatchery. Now they hatch not only local fish eggs, but eggs from Canada, Alaska, and Europe. These fish are transported by truck and airplane, then planted in the waters of several western states. The favorite fish at the hatchery today, are the albino fish.



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IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

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In 1912 the Wasatch Trout Company purchased the hatchery and operated it until 1916 when John and William L. Van Wagoner bought the site and began regular marketing of fish to miners near Midway and Park City. George Van Wagoner and Bliss Titus cared for the plant.

The Van Wagoners operated the hatchery until 1921 when a private club, the Timpanogos Rod Club, under the direction of E. M. Bagley, president, purchased the property. The hatchery business was closed down and the streams used as fishing waters for club members only.

The State Fish and Game department leased the hatchery land in 1924 and began a long range program to improve the facilities. Cement runs, large ponds and streams and living facilities for those who operate the hatchery have been constructed. In 1939 Alma Durtschi and Angus Thacker patented a revolving screen to separate fish and keep them in their respective streams. In five months of operation the hatchery produced more than 5,000,000 trout annually for stocking rivers and lakes in the area. The fish are transported in special trucks to the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers, Provo and south fork of the Provo River, Weber River, Wolf Creek, Deer Creek, Wanship Reservoir, Deer Creek Reservoir, Strawberry Lake, Moon Lake and a few of the Granddaddy lakes.

Though no records were kept, it is believed that the following have supervised the hatchery since 1909: Elmer Madsen, George Van Wagoner, Bliss Titus, Obrem Barrett, Henry Scheuller, Ben Butler, George Cox and David E. Wright. The hatchery is state owned and operated and is reported to be one of the largest and best hatcheries in the country.

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Other Features

The world's largest fish hatchery is located at Midway. Here the life cycle of the fish from tiny egg to full maturity can be observed. The facility is becoming an increasingly popular attraction.

Dude ranching, summer cabin sites, and a place for pleasant retirement are related possibilities to the recreational potential of the Valley.



Fish Hatchery workers at Midway